J. M. WOOD, Business Maxager. No. 611 10th Street N. E., WASHINGTON, D. C.

Pre Contributors are Business Men, Busbasss Women, Scientists, Plain People, Travsters. Poets, etc., etc. In other words, people familiar whereof they write, who bell their stories in a way that will interest our suburban friends.

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The Suburban Citizen, WASHINGTON, D. C.

We devote a few columns of space this week to the professional kickers, in the hope that they may thus be led to see the error of their way.

Nowhere has American trade made more impression in a short time than in South Africa.

Modern children have great responsibility in bringing up their parents in the way they should go.

'A courageous Indiana legislator proposes to fine a baggageman every time he throws a piece of baggage from the car down to the platform.

Massachusetts has prohibited the use of the United States flag for advertising purposes. The flag-makers will feel the blow, but the people will commend the law, and hope to see other States adopt it.

In Bavaria an association of farmers has been organized for the purpose of experimenting with the electrical distribution of power through their farms. The power is to be generated at an adjacent waterfall.

Thousands of Italian women, skilled in embroidery work, have emigrated to Switzerland for the purpose of securing higher wages. In their own country they receive twenty to thirty cents a day. In Switzerland they get from thirty-six to forty cents per day.

Spain has on the average over 3000 hours of sunshine during each year, and yet, perhaps, possesses more poverty and suffering in proportion to population than any other nation. This reverses the old saying of "the sun behind the clouds," and leaves the clouds behind the sun.

Nebraska has no bonded debt. The last bonds outstanding were redeemed and canceled on the 2d of June last, which leaves the State clear of indebtedness with the exception of about \$1,750,000 in warrants issued against the general fund, with a balance of \$819,281.90 in the treasury at the clos of the last fiscal year.

Direct gifts to educational institutions from the living exceeded largely the bequests of decedents last year, The latter only numbered sixty-seven, while the former came from 140 persons. The practice of making these gifts before death is a good one to encourage. The donor has, at least, the pleasure of noting the appreciation with which his gift is received, and possibly seeing some of the good it JUST TO BEAT SOMEBODY ELSE.

People toil and plan and stew, Just to beat somebody else;
Brown beats Jones and Jones beats you
Just to beat somebody else;
When the robber comes at night,
When the soldier goes to fight,
When the poet mounts the height,
It's to beat somebody else. Lovely woman sweetly sways
Just to beat somebody else;
When the artist wins your praise
It's to beat somebody else;
Life's a game at which we play—
Never resting day by day—
Always in the same old way,
Light to best somebody else.



By Annabel Dwight.

sauntered down the long picture gallery with her slim, white hands loosely clasped before her. She was an English girl, with the blue blood of a noble old family in her

veins, and she had inherited the beauty of the Vanes-the clear, pale, ovalshaped face, the proud lips, and the calm, sweet, violet-gray eyes. She was a visitor at Anstruthers

Hall for the first time since childhood. Lady Anstrutners was a dear friend of her mother's, and it had been the desire of both families that a matrimonial alliance should be formed between Barbara and the elder son of the Anstruthers. But when the girl was shrinking. about fourteen years old a terrible disgrace fell upon the Hall.

Lord Anstruther's name had been forged to the amount of several hundred pour ds, and circumstances pointed to the elder son, Clifford, as the guilty

The thought that a son of his house, which had hitherto been free from stain, should uo so shameful a deed, nearly killed the old man at first, but time deadened the force of the shock -the affair was hushed up.

Clifford's place as heir was usurped by the second son, and only one clung to the belief of the young man' innocence, which he had firmly declaredthat one his mother.

Barbara had been at the Hall nearly a month, and Gaston Austruthers was her devoted slave. She was growing weary of him. Her womanly instinct had sounded the depth of his shallow nature, and found nothing there to sat

Clifford was coming home from abroad to pay one of his occasional visits to his mother; for since that dark day he had made his home no more at the Hall.

Barbara had a curiosity to see this high-spirited, dark-eyed youth; she paused before his painting in the gallery to study it for perhaps the fiftieth time in the past two or three weeks. The painting had been executed just before the discovery of the forged note, when the original was about three-and-twenty.

It represented a young man, radiant with youth and conscious strength and power. The pose of the handsome head was king-like, the dark hair was thrown back from a broad brow, and the large, dark eyes held a faint smile which the grave, sweet dignity of the beardless lips denied.

There was a fascination about this picture which Barbara could not resist, even while she rebelled against it.

"How deep and base a heart he must have had," she thought, "to wear a look like that while he was contemplating so contemptible a deed!"

For Barbara had listened to the whole shameful story many times, and had decided against the young man. And how her haughty lips had curled, and how cold and proud the sweet eyes had grown at the bare thought of the old-time-planned alliance.

She, Barbara Vane, to wed with a forger, who was free from a prison cell only because his old father shrunk with shameful agony from placing him there!

Her dainty head crested itself as she turned away from the painting, but the faintly-smiling eyes seemed to follow her, and she looked back over her shoulder.

A door opened and shut at the lower end of the room, and directly a gentleman advanced toward her from the shadows.

A sudden thrill made her tremble from head to foot. This was Clifford Anstruthers, but oh, infinitely older and sadder! There was no smile in the dark eyes which rested upon her face. A heavy mustache drooped over the stern mouth, and a few silver threads glittered among the dark waves of his hair, though he was not yet thirty.

He bowed coldly, without offering

"My mother tells me that you are a visitor at the Hall, Miss Vane," he said.

"Yes," said Barbara, a feeling of timidity flushing the clear pallor of her cheek, "and I find it a delightful old place-quite fulfilling my childish remembrance of it,"

"That is pleasant," he returned in an abstracted manner, pulling the silky ear of a large yellow hound which had followed him into the room, and now stood with wistful eyes upraised.

A pause, full of embarrassment to Barbara, ensued, broken presently by the entrance of Gaston Anstruthers, who, in full dinner costume, came beside Barbara.

are you?" he said, smiling in a shift- timidly.

Just to beat somebody else.

—S. E. Kiser, in Chicago Times-Herald.

ISS BARBARA VANE | ing. uneasy way, as his gaze wandered from his brother's grave, cold eyes. slowly "As well as usual," returned the elder brother, as, with a slight bow to Barbara, he walked away, the hound keeping close beside him.

"Dinner is ready, Barbara," said Gaston, galiy, giving her his arm. "My mother sent me to bring you." She allowed him to lead her down

stairs, to where a brilliant company was gathered about the glittering board, but Clifford did not join them. And all through that hour, while dainty jest and brilliant repartee went around with the coffee in her heart of hearts Barbara was brooding over the dark, stern features of the elder son, whose name was never mentioned under that roof without a conscious

A month later Clifford Anstruthers still ingered at the Hall. It would be hard to say why he lingered. He was treated with cold courtesy by the old lord and avoided by his brother.

But one in the great house was loyal to him, except the servants, who would stake their lives on the young man's honor, and the great yellow hound, Caesar, who would obey his slightest word.

And Barbara? No one knew her heart. She scarcely knew it herself. She was half frightened at the strange power which Clifford Anstruthers began to have over her. She fought wildly against it; flirted desperately with this one and that one; treated the young man with coldness, sometimes with positive rudeness, and went on dreaming of him the more by night and thinking of hi_, the more by day.

Barbara was twenty years old, and very proud. She had great visions of her future magnificence; so, when a tiny whisper in her heart said that this was love she rejected the idea with indignant scorn, and plunged the deeper into all the gay revelry at the Hall.

And on the night of the grand New Year ball, Gaston, carrying her away young man, whom she remembered as to the conservatory, asked her to be his

> Barbara had been waltzing; she was dizzy and confused, and hardly knew history. what he was saying until he fell down on his knees before her, and raised her hands to his lips.

"Stop!" she cried, snatching her hands away. "What is this you ask of me-to be your wife? Impossible! Forgive me, Gaston, if I have seemed to encourage you, but indeed I do not love you as I must love the man who becomes my husband."

Gaston Anstruthers arose to his feet with an unpleasant glitter in his eyes. "You are our guest, Miss Barbara," he said; "it is not for me to give my opinion of your course of action. However, as I find you so often before my brother's picture in the gallery, and find this"-here he threw a pencil sketch of Clifford's head, which he had snatched from his breast, into her lap -"and find this where it has dropped from your pertfolio, I conclude that while amusing yourself by a flirtation with me you have really been falling in love with Clifford, who, unfortunately"-oh, the sneering voice!-"is not in a position to marry.'

There was a hasty movement behind the tall cactus to the left of them, and, as Barbara arose, pale and trembling with indignation, Clifford Anstruthers stepped forth with blazing eyes and clencaed fist, as though he would strike

his brother down. But as Gaston cowered and paledsuddenly, the clenched fist loosened,

and he motioned Gaston away. "There-go!" he said, with cold scorn. 'Go," with a curl of the lip; "you have

nothing to fear." With a last imploring look at Clifford which was not lost upon Barbara, Gaston left them alone together.

Clifford possessed himself of the bara was so sure of having hidden safely away—and was regarding it gravely.

She made a movement to pass him, but he was in her way, and she was painted ships. These are not imposing angry with herself for flushing so hotly when he looked up.

He smiled at her tenderly, a smile beauty to his dark face, and Barbara's heart leaped to her throat.

A fierce longing to believe in his innocence assailed her as the stood there before him, his gaze holding hers, while softened and saddened through the dusk fragrance about them came the strains of music from the ballroom.

Each one was sure in that one fateful moment of the other's love.

With a dry sob the girl pushed him aside with her trembling hands and swiftly down the room, starting a lit- swept by him. But when she reached tle at the sight of his elder brother the door and looked back and saw him of 326 feet from a coal mine in Belstanding with bowed head, she re- gium, and from it sprouted weeds of "Ah, Cliff, you've come, eh? How turned to his side and touched his arm a species entirely unknown to botan-

"Clifford," she said, "I will not leave you unless you bid me.

"I do bid you!" he returned, lifting his head to look steadily at her. "Go!" A slight shadow fell over her face, but she moved away obediently, when with a sudden movement he gathered her in his arms, and, pushing the fair hair from her temples, kissed her brow and eyes, and lips, slowly and solemnly, as one who takes an eternal fare-

"Good-by!" she said, tremulously, when he released her. "Good-by!" he replied.

And he held the door open and watched her while she passed from his sight among the shifting figures of the ball-room.

A week later, after Clifford had returned to France and Barbara had gone Jome, Lady Anstruthers brought Gaston a long letter, which she had written to the girl, with the request hat he would direct it for her.

Gaston received it with a silent bend His momer did not know that their

late guest had rejected him. He had, ready sealed, a letter to his brother Clifford; and he made a very

natural mistake in directing the letters, for he used the same heavy, cream-laid, monogrammed envelopes that his mother did.

The consequence was that, two days later, Barbara received the letter addressed to Clifford, which was nothing less than a weak appeal for clemency and silence, and which revealed the astounding fact that Gaston, the younger brother, was the guilty one who forged the note, in ofter to liquidate some gambling debts, which he dared not confess to his father, and that, circumstances convicting Clifford, he had kept silent-beyond protesting his innocence-at the frantic entreaties of the young scamp who had been greatly beloved by him.

Barbara, despite her gentle, graceful manners no sweet yes; had much decision of character.

She knew that Gaston would attend the races on the following week. She had friends there, and she went

down to visit them, and went to Gaston's hotel, thickly veiled.

In a few quiet words the matter was laid before him, together with the alternative. "If you do not make a full confession

to your father and clear every shadow of suspicion from Clifford's name, I will noise this matter abroad among all your friends. Choose at once!" His rage and smothered curses

availed nothing. The lovely, high-bred girl was as cold and hard as a marble statue, and as white. But after she had won his sullen promise to right the wrong, and had

reached her chamber, she was flushed and tearful and radiant. It was Gaston who went away a month later, and Clifford who came

Gaston put the ocean between himself and England, and settled in Amerca, where he finally married a wealthy banker's daughter, who probably knew nothing of her husband's real

Clifford was called home to be greeted by his father's remorseful prayers for forgiveness and his moth-

er's happy tears. But the girl who loved him, and who had brought all this about-she was very shy. She fretted herself with all

sorts of suppositions. Perhaps, now that the whole world was before him, he would choose differently. Perhaps he regretted those kisses in the conservatory-the passionate love of look and tone-the

memory of which thrilled her heart. Nevertheless, every summons at the door startled her, and flushed the fair

cheeks. And when at last he did come, all the little speeches which she had prepared for such an event forsook her.

She saw the outstretched arms and the eloquent eyes of her lover, who had passed through years of sorrow and shame for another, and with a little tremulous cry ran forward and was folded close to his heart.—Saturday

Where the Ships Are. One of the ocean steamship offices

in lower Broadway, New York City, is, like many others, besieged daily with questions as to the expected arrival or the probable whereabouts at sea of its numerous vessels. This office, unlike with a deprecating gesture before his the others, has always ready an anbrother, the man's passion died out swer that even the passing Broadway crowd may see and understand. In place of a screen at one of the great windows there is hung an ocean chart, in which a baby-blue sea and some brick-red terra firma are separated by heavy black lines, significant of nothing if not of wrecks, but innocently intended here to define the shores of Europe and America. Across the exsketch-the unlucky sketch which Bar- panse of painted ocean are strung two parallel wires, binding continent to continent in no merely rhetorical sense. And at frequent intervals along the wires' course there are perched little vessels, yet in several cases they possess some salient feature of design to identify them with conspicuous ships that brought back the old wonderful of the company's foreign service. In other instances, miniature pennants furnish the familiar names. Here the friends of voyagers may be seen in varying groups at any hour of the day, and a glance is enough to furnish some knowledge of those whose arrival at home or abroad they await impatiently. The simple window chart tells all that the company knows, and the saving of time and temper for the office staff indoors is the deserved reward of ingenuity.

> Weeds That Puzzied Botanists. Soil was brought up from a depth

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